ROM

Sunrise Titles and Twills

hangings by H. Theodore Hallman
featuring titles by Kenneth G. Mills

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Sunrise Titles and Twills

Last February I showed Kenneth G. Mills, my spiritual Teacher, a series of woven hangings inspired by my study with him at his "Summer Festival of Light, Sound, and Peace," which is held each year at Sparrow Lake, Ontario. Mr. Mills is a Teacher of Self-realization, a poet, and an extraordinary composer. He most graciously and spontaneously offered over 100 titles, as well as design modifications for the twelve sunrise hangings I had already woven. Then with great exuberance he delineated how the series could be expanded with six additional pieces for which he also gave titles and design motifs. I have followed his inspired direction, and urge you to consider these "Titles and Twills" as a series of "verb-istries" of sight and sound united in an embellishment of praise!

I wish to acknowledge those who have so generously offered their assistance in the presentation of this show: Jaan Koel, Nathalie Osborne Murphy, Susan Alberghini, and Beverley Tudhope.

H. Theodore Hallman, Jr.
Toronto, September 1978

Introduction

We often emphasize the function of contemporary handcrafted fabrics in softening and humanizing the brutal, impersonal excesses of our twentieth-century interiors; however, the environments created by the concrete slab walls of contemporary office towers, no less than those created by the stone walls of mediaeval princely architecture, are enhanced by the colour and texture of woven cloth. In each case cloth brings warmth and beauty, and perhaps a little poetry to an interior that houses human activity.

Throughout history textile furnishings have been adapted to changing styles and tastes. Beyond a level of basic subsistence, it is difficult to separate aesthetic considerations of furnishings from concerns for physical comfort, privacy, or utility. Each age has created its celebrated textiles, reflecting its social and cultural values. The role of the individual weaver-craftsman is critical although virtually impossible to assess.

H. Theodore Hallman is a noted American artist and weaver now living and working in Toronto. His formal training in the United States, France, and Austria focused on weaving, as well as on painting and music. He is both a practising craftsman of international standing and a dedicated teacher helping others develop their own resources. His doctoral thesis in education at the University of California at Berkeley dealt with the nurturing of creative expression in the adult.

Ted Hallman's work is marked by an innovative use of materials combined with a superb mastery of traditional weaving techniques. Since the early 1960s his work has been exhibited in major one-man and group shows organized by many of the leading American museums. He participated in the prestigious 1964 Milan Triennale, and his textiles are included in many major collections. His work ranges from such monumental pieces as a room-sized construction for the 1970 "Contemplative Environments" show at the Museum of Contemporary Crafts in New York to the delicate off-loom hangings that were included in the British Crafts Centre's First International Exhibition of Miniature Textiles in 1974.

This set of eighteen hangings, created over the past two years, is a collaboration between weaver and poet. Within a restricted scale, subtleties of colour and texture suggest the daily, but constantly changing, event of sunrise. Colour effects rely on a wide range of dyeing techniques: selective dyeing of yarns in traditional ikat methods, warp painting, and selective bleaching and colouring after weaving is complete. One of the most flexible of basic weaving systems, twill is used expressively to create texture and form. Of particular note is the use of twill bindings to delineate form. Texture and form offer visual and intellectual complexity, inviting the viewer to explore his own perception in the manner of studying a mandala. Sunrise twills bear titles offered by the Toronto poet Kenneth G. Mills, which further enchance the contemplative appreciation of these weavings.

The thirteenth-century embroiderer gave form to the intricacies of mediaeval scholasticism; the eighteenth-century French tapestry maker reflected the encyclopaedic interests of the Age of Reason. Similarly, Ted Hallman's weavings cannot be divorced from his time or place. He has spent his summers attending workshops in Muskoka conducted by Kenneth G. Mills. The results of their collaboration encourage us to pause and consider.

John E. Vollmer
Textile Department
Royal Ontario Museum

1

Zigzag effect on a 4/4 chevron twill; all wool, supplemental dyed weft; warp painting. 74 cm x 66 cm

A Fundamental and the Over Harmonics

The Overtones

The Quiescent Scene

The Quiescent State

The Womb

The Womb Receiving the Seed

The Loom

The Quiescent State and the Dawning of Action

The Dissipation of Suggestion in the Stillness of Dawn

The Dissipation of the Fog

The Piercing of the Veils

The Green in the Name of Nature

The Green in the Frequency of Nature

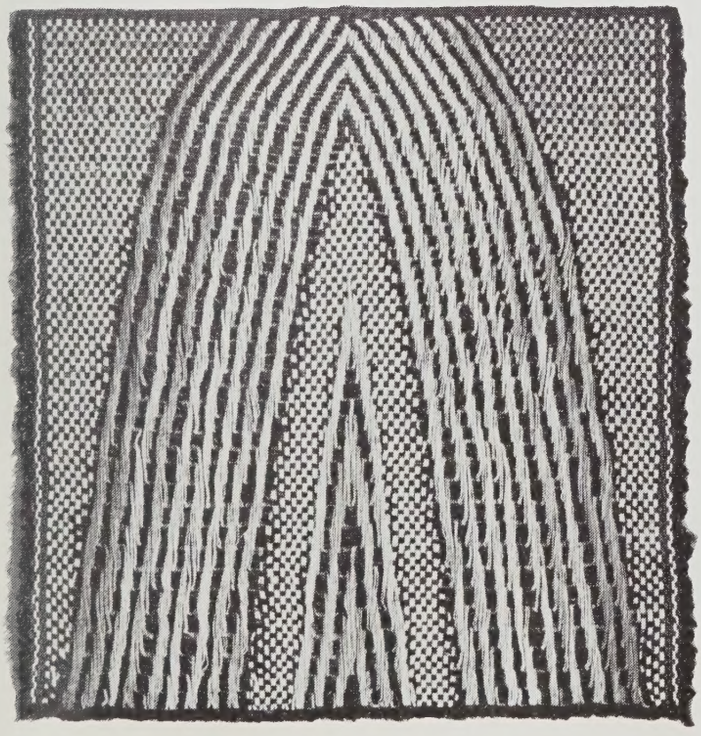
The Piercing of the Veils with Nature's Support

The Piercing of the Veils with Nature's Thrust

Nature's Thrust Appearing as the Piercing of the Veils

Nature's Thrust – The Piercing of the Veils. Do You See the Point?

2



Symmetrical undulating 8-harness composite twill with extended tabby; all wool, woven with grouped warps and wefts; warp painting. 77.5 cm x 71 cm

The Cathedral of the Rainbow

Rainbow Cathedral

The Heart of the Flame in the Garment of Rainbow

The Impulse of the New Age

A Thrust into the New Age

The Thimble Full of Fire

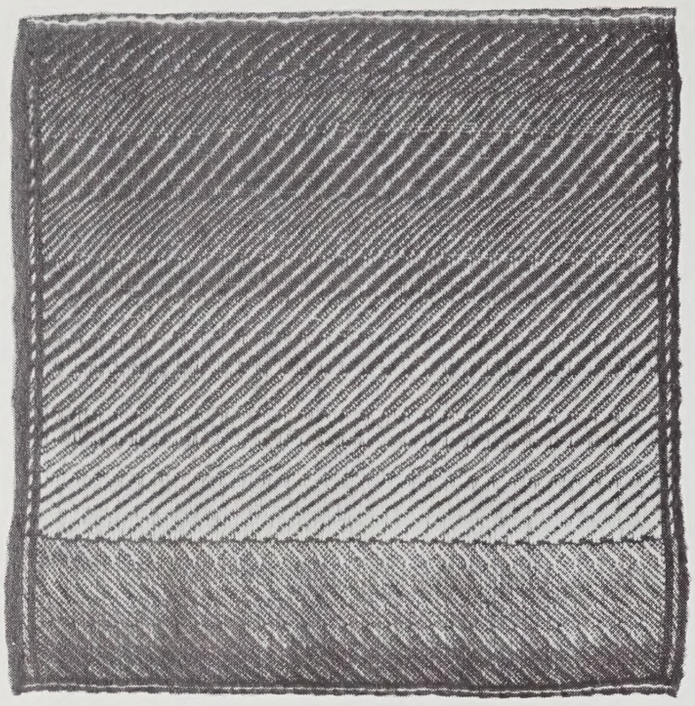
The Thimble of Power

The Outer Garment of the Flame

A Thimble Full of De-light (Divine Light) and the Shrine of the Flame

The Cathedral of the Rainbow with the Shrine of the Flame

3



Composite twill, 17 modulations graded from weft- to warp- and back to weft-face; all wool; warp painting. 73.5 cm x 71 cm

Pointing to the Palette of Promise

The Palette of Promise

Vibrations at Home

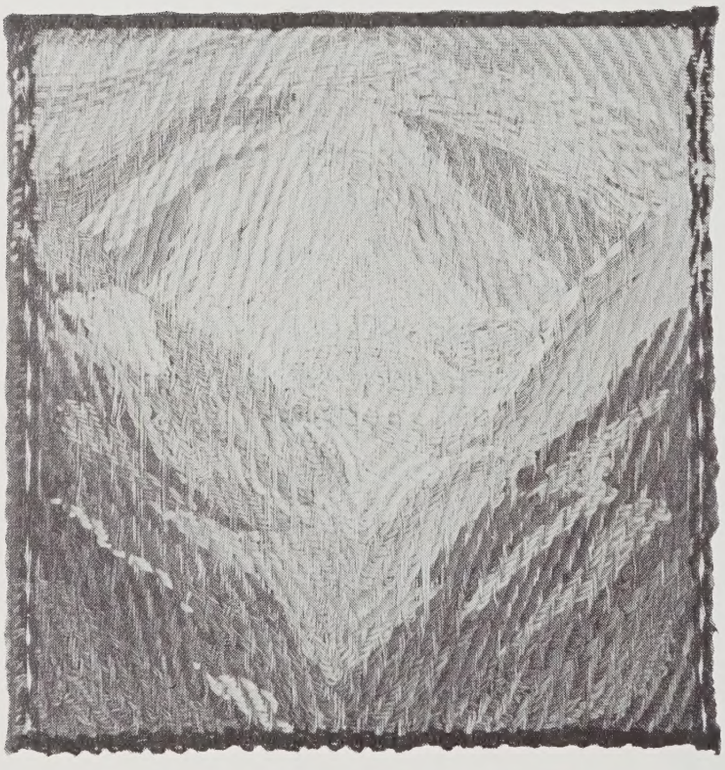
To Be at Home

These Vibrations should be Found at Home in the New Age

A Sea of Harmonics Struck by Devotion

A Sea of Harmonics When Struck by Devotion

4



Tapestry on single 4/4 chevron twill; wool warp and synthentic wefts; warp painting. 74 cm x 70 cm

Shangri-La

The Fabled City – Will You Find It?

The Fabled City of Shangri-La Seen Through an Opening in the Mountain

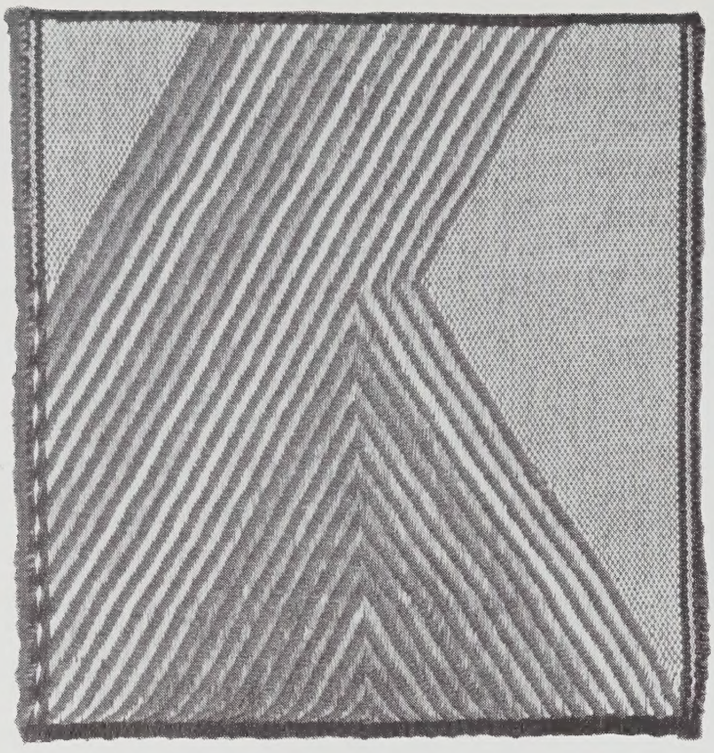
Shangri-La, the Fabled City of Eternal Promise

5

Sixteen-harness twill diaper variation; wool warp and acrylic weft; painting after weaving. 82 cm x 75 cm

Choral Delights
Choral Delights for the Higher Register

6



Modified single 8/8 chevron twill with extended tabby; all wool, wefts single and plied; warp painting. 76 cm x 71 cm

The Fourth

In a Range of Mountains the Fourth is Promised

In a Range of Mountains a Ray is to be Found

East and West Meet in the Chamber of Transcendency

The Power that Causes the World to Wonder

The Power of Love Causes Resistance to Crumble

The Ultraviolet Wave in a Sea of Promise

The Point of Love Can Change the Course of Time

The Point of the Willow is to Bend and Blend

In the Amethyst Hue Currents are Changing

In the Light of the Amethyst Veins are Revealed – The Hidden is Known

The Thrust of the Unknown – May Meaning be Born

7

Sixteen-harness twill diaper variation (reflection modified and elongated) with extended tabby; all wool, wefts single and plied; warp painting, painting after weaving. 82.5 cm x 75 cm

Reflection

The Top of Time – Can't You See It Spinning – Dancing?

The Line of Power

As Above So Below

Topaz

The Top of the Line

The Top of the Valley

Lake and Sky

The Island

The Pyre of the Viking

The Island of Sky and Water

The Flaming Sea

The Vertebrae of Power

The Shed Garment of Change

The Remains of Change

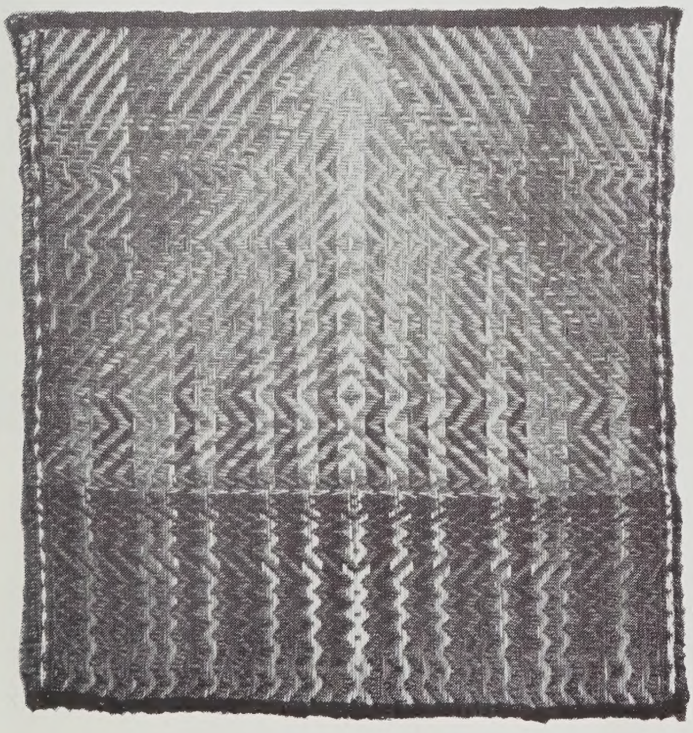
The Remains of Change – Below and Above the Equator

8

Lightning effect based on 8/8 chevron twill with extended tabby; all wool; gradated pre-dyed weft; discharged after weaving.
82.5 cm x 68.5 cm

From Earth to Fire
The Mountains Kissed by the Rising Sun
Perspective
From the Height of the Eagle – The Land Below
The Parched Earth
The Desert Shall Bloom
The Painted Desert
The Crooked Straight – The Rough Plain

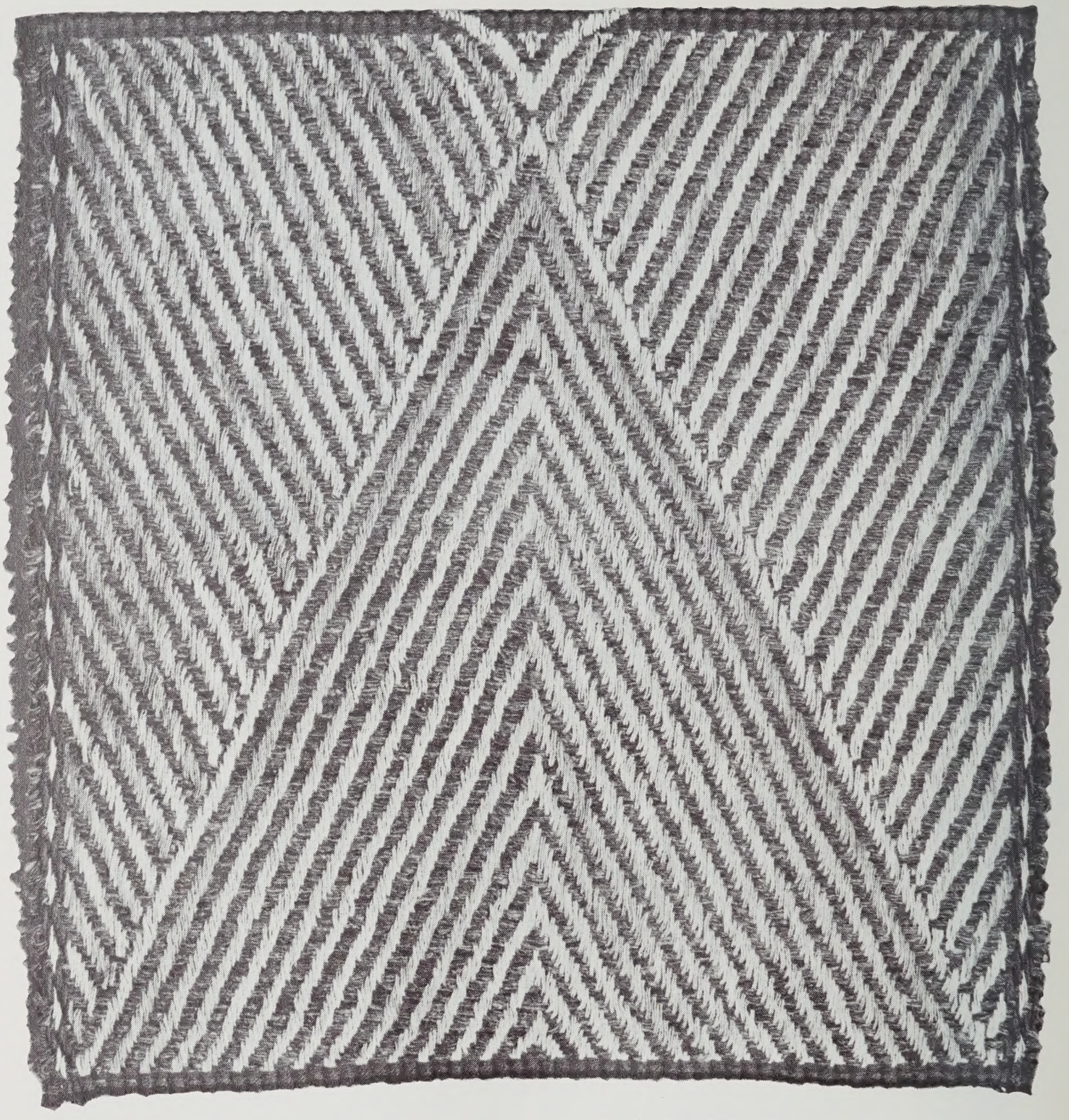
9



Stepped symmetrical single chevron twill; wool warp, wool and cotton weft; warp painting, weft yarns resist-dyed (ikat).
76 cm x 68.5 cm

The Risen Fire in the Sea of Devotion
The Risen Fire in the Gown of Devotion
A Promise
The Crimson Flame in the Rhythm of Blue
The Crimson Flame on the Wave of Vogue
Given to Praise
Explorations
As the Dance of the Veils
Worship
Wordship
The Dance of Wordship

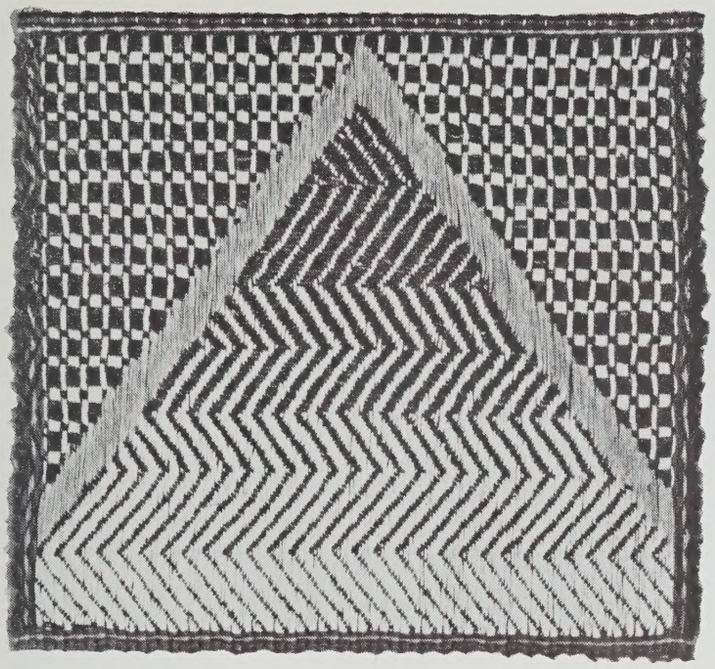
10



Pick-up variation on single 4/4 chevron twill; all wool; warp painting. Design modification by Kenneth G. Mills.
75.5 cm x 71 cm

The Point of No Return
Beyond Limits
The Victory of a Point
Beyond Horizons

11



Chevron twill, 7 modifications from weft- to warp-face, framed by single chevron twill with a 12/4 extended tabby; all wool; painted after weaving. Design modification by Kenneth G. Mills. 65 cm x 70 cm

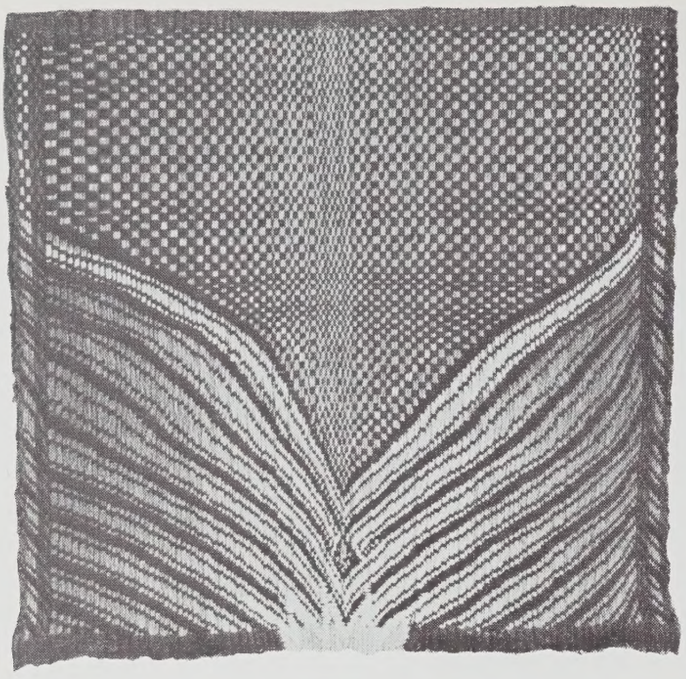
The Newness of the Unchanging
The Constant in the Midst of the Changing

12

Modified 4/4 twill diapers with extended tabby; all wool, weft single and plied; warp yarns resist-dyed (ikat). 95 cm x 78.5 cm

From the Unseen Point
Life Line
That Which Contains the Eternal Flame
The Olympics
The Cup
What the Cup Gave to the Saucer

13



The Visit

Undulating single 16-harness chevron twill with extended tabby variations; all wool, plied and supplemental wefts; warp painting. Design by Kenneth G. Mills.
65.5 cm x 69.5 cm

14

The Door
The Utterance
The Gift

Irregular composite twill with extended tabby; all wool; warp yarns resist-painted, weft yarns resist-dyed (ikat); painted after weaving. Design by Kenneth G. Mills.
65 cm x 75 cm

15

The Reception
Power
The Chalice

Pick-up on a 16-harness twill diaper with extended tabby; all wool; warp painting; painted after weaving. Design by Kenneth G. Mills. 70.5 cm x 65 cm

16

The Key
The Holy Breath

Undulating 16-harness twill variation; all wool; warp painting. Design by Kenneth G. Mills. 61 cm x 70 cm

17

The Balance
The Butterfly of Wisdom Can Be Traced
Flower or Balanced Cross
The Fecundating Power of the Holy Breath is the Birth of the Butterfly

Lozenge twill variation; all wool; warp and weft yarns resist-dyed (ikat). Design by Kenneth G. Mills. 64 cm x 64 cm

18

It is Finished
It is Done
Coming and Going
The X Becomes Known
The Hourglass of Time and the Infinite – The Timeless
The Entire World – The Timeless and the Timed

Undulating single 16-harness chevron twill; wool with supplemental silver filé weft; warp painting. Design by Kenneth G. Mills. 73.5 cm x 70 cm

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Sunrise Titles and Twills is an exhibition of woven hangings on loan to the Textile Department of the Royal Ontario Museum from H. Theordore Hallman and circulated in Canada by the Extension Services Department through the co-operation of National Museums, Canada.

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